

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135981

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT:NPG - FREDERISKHAVEN FOLLOW-UP

REF.: USNATO 5327 (DTG 241137Z MAY 78)

1. DRAFT PERMREP REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL STILL HAS NOT
ACHIEVED PRECISION WHICH WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD ACHIEVE IF
FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARE TO BE AVOIDED. FURTHER
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CHANGES YOU SHOULD SEEK FOLLOW.

2. PARA 4. IN LAST SENTENCE, THERE IS IMPLICATION THAT
NPG PERMREPS ARE SOMEHOW SEPARATE FROM NATIONS. WE
BELIEVE THIS IMPRESSION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. IN KEEPING
WITH PAST NATURE OF PERMREP EXCHANGES, WE BELIEVE SENTENCE
SHOULD READ FROM SECOND "WE," "WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A

PROGRESS REPORT ON ITS WORK AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE SO AS TO ALLOW NATIONS TIME FOR ITS CONSIDERATION IN THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR PERMREPS DISCUSSIONS AND THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING."

3. ON PARA 5, SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS, PARA STILL DOES NOT PERMIT NATIONS TO RAISE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND FORCE PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS IF THEY WISH. WE AND OTHERS SHOULD NOT FEEL PRECLUDED FROM RAISING SUCH

CONSIDERATIONS, AND HAVING THEM REFLECTED IN THE REPORT AS APPROPRIATE. MOREOVER, LAST SENTENCE SEEMS

INCONSISTENT WITH AGREED MINUTE WHICH SAID SHORT TERM MEASURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED UP IN WIDER CONTEXT OF NATO'S FORCE PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND WITHIN A NATIONAL CONTEXT. SINCE NPG ACTION CANNOT BE SEPARATE FROM NATIONAL ACTIONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT LAST SENTENCE READ, "OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE FOR DISCUSSION BY NPG MINISTERS A REPORT WHICH INDICATES THE ACTIONS NATIONS PLAN TO TAKE ON SHORT-TERM MEASURES." QUESTION OF FURTHER DISPOSITION OF REPORT SHOULD BE LEFT TO MINISTERS. WE SUGGEST THAT EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE MEASURES THEMSELVES TAKE PLACE BEFORE DRAFTING OF REPORT IS ATTEMPTED.

4. ON PARA 7, PHRASE IN FIRST SENTENCE, "THESE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFENSIVE" SEEMS UNNECESSARILY EDITORIAL AND COULD BE DROPPED. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SECOND BRACKET. HOWEVER, AS FALLBACK, SUGGEST FIRST BRACKET BE REWRITTEN AS FOLLOWS: "WE ARE AWARE THAT AS THE REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS EFFORTS (HLG FOLLOW-ON REPORT, POLITICO-STRATEGIC MARITIME STUDY, AND OUR REPORT ON SHORT-TERM TNF IMPROVEMENTS) ARE DRAWN TOGETHER, HOPEFULLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE SPRING 1979 MINISTERIAL MEETING, IT WILL BE DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE THE ANALYSIS OF DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS FOR DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS."

5. ON GENERAL APPROACH TO DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE AIMED AT FRAMING DISCUSSIONS BY PERMREPS AND MINISTERS, NOT AT PROVIDING A COMPLETE STAFF SOLUTION. THUS, IT WOULD RAISE ALL THE RELEVANT DETERRENT FACTORS, AND COMPARE THE SYSTEMS, PRO AND CON, AGAINST THEM. THE ANALYSIS SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A WAY TO SELL ONE POSITION OR ANOTHER. SPECIFIC POSITIONS CAN BE PUSHED BY NATIONS DURING PERMREP AND MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS ONCE A NEUTRAL REPORT IS PREPARED. ONE WAY TO APPROACH TH,S REPORT WOULD BE INCREMENTALLY, THAT IS, A SERIES OF STAFF GROUP

DISCUSSIONS MEANT TO SET THE PROBLEM, IDENTIFY THE RELEVANT FACTORS, ESTABLISH TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DETERRENT ANALYSIS, ETC. THIS APPROACH WOULD PERMIT EXCHANGES OF VIEW ALONG THE WAY, AS OPPOSED TO HAVING A GROUP OF EXPERTS DISAPPEAR FOR SOME TIME TO PRODUCE A COMPLETE REPORT. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE DISCUSSION PAPERS ONCE A FRAMEWORK OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN SET UP.

6. ON PHASE III, ANTICIPATION OF A "FINAL" REPORT SEEMS PREMATURE. A MAIN BENEFIT FROM THE PHASE III EXERCISE WILL BE THE DIALOGUE AMONG NATIONS ONCE A FIRST DRAFT IS AVAILABLE. DRAFT MIGHT THEN EVOLVE IN WAYS WHICH ARE

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DIFFICULT TO PREDICT AT THIS POINT. SUGGEST LAST SENTENCE BE REVISED TO READ, "WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO FORWARD A PROGRESS REPORT FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AT THEIR AUTUMN MEETING. THEREAFTER, WE WILL SEE WHETHER A FIRM DRAFT CONSOLIDATED GUIDELINES DOCUMENT CAN BE READY FOR MINISTERS TO DISCUSS AT THEIR SPRING 1979 MEETING."

7. ON PARA 11, BELIEVE SECOND TICK SHOULD READ, "NPG PERMREPS REPORT ON SHORT TERM TNF IMPROVEMENTS."

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